

International Graduate Student Seminar July 27-29

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After the two-day Professional Conference successfully ended, another two-day International Graduate Student Seminar began in the Nanzan Seminar House. Most graduate students (except Nagoya locals) and several professors who were in charge stayed at this seminar house. One of the main purposes of this International Graduate Student Seminar is to share the space including lodging and dining facilities, eating from the same pot and talking till midnight under the same roof, so that the future leaders of the global community could build and reinforce their mutual understanding and sense of mission. In total 40 registered students (11 from the U. S., 26 from Japan, 3 from the other Asian-Pacific countries) participated in the seminar.

The universities of the participants are as follows: *Australia*: University of New South Wales; *Japan*: Doshisha University, Hitotsubashi University, Kobe University, Kyoto University, Kwansei Gakuin University, Meiji University, Nagoya University, Nanzan University, Osaka University, University of Tokyo; *Philippines*: De La Salle University; *United States*: Brown University, George Washington University, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, University of California—Davis, University of California—Irvine, University of California—San Diego, University of Kansas, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities, University of Pennsylvania, Yale University; *Republic of Korea*: Seoul National University.

The programs were as follows:

July 27 Evening

At 17:30, the orientation session began with Prof. Yamagishi Takakazu presiding. First, Prof. Kawashima Masaki, the Project Director of NASSS, explained the history of NASSS. Then all mentors and tutors were introduced to graduate students. At 18:30, after moving to the dining room, welcome reception started. After the dinner, the “extra-innings” for informal discussion (*zadan no yube*) over drinks was held in a room, where the students and professors could sit down on the floor and discuss freely sharing their ideas beyond their cultural backgrounds and individual fields of study.

July 28 Morning

Using public transportation, most of the foreign and Japanese participants took part in this program. Led by Prof. Ichiro Iwano, the Special Adviser to NASSS, they visited Atsuta Jingu and Osu Kannon, well-known shrine and temple, respectively, in Nagoya city. They had lunch at Atsuta Jingu and enjoyed Kishimen, traditional flat udon noodle. They also enjoyed the shopping at the traditional arcade near Osu Kannon.

July 28 Afternoon

The plenary session was composed of two parts. The first part began with an international comparison of Ph. D. programs. Then the three keynote speakers gave talks concerning “backstage episodes” or the “making” of researches. Then an open discussion was held about how to be successful as graduate students and scholars. In the second part of the session, students had discussion based on the questions previously given by the three keynote speakers.

July 28 Evening

During the dinner, professors from abroad and Japan took seats scattered among students, enjoying meal and conversation with them. After the dinner, Prof. Rey Chow invited students to Akira Kurosawa’s movie, *Rhapsody of August*. About 20 students attended the session and had a valuable discussion afterward.

July 29 Morning and Afternoon

Students were divided into three sections: Social Sciences, Politics & International Relations, Literature and Culture. In each of the sections, 8 to 12 students made 15-minute presentation, followed by 20 to 30-minute Q&A session. Questions and comments came from not only other graduate students but also from the professors. The presentation sessions in all three sections were successful. With mutual trust created by sharing the same housing and meals, all students actively cooperated to improve presenters’ projects.

July 29 Evening

At the beginning of the final dinner party, a “Certificate of the Completion” was awarded to each of the participants. Then the second “Free Discussion” was held and as many as 30 students and professors took part.

July 30 Morning (Departure)

After having the last breakfast, all the graduate student participants started on their way back home respectively.